

**MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES (GOCI)
MARYLAND COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS (MCIA)**

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER MEETING: September 8, 2008

**Easton Library
100 West Dover Street
Easton, Maryland 21601
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present

Chairwoman Auriel Fenwick
Vice-Chair Thomas Windsor, II
Virginia Busby
David Holland
Wanda Y. Lee
Guy Wells

Commissioners Absent

Kathryn E. Robbins Fitzhugh
Cornelius Allen Red Deer

Audience Present

Beverly Littlehawk
Chief Rudy Hall
Mary Hall
Josh Russin
Karen Monath
Debra Henry
Cheryl Doughty

Norris Howard, Sr.
Tee Brooks
Luther Hill
Vikki Childs
Cathy B. Jones
Alonaz H. Anderson

MCIA Staff

E. Keith Colston

**I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: COMMISSIONER/CHAIR AURIEL
FENWICK-Meeting commenced at 7:20 p.m.**

**II. READING/CORRECTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES: COMMISSIONER
VIRIGINIA BUSBY read minutes from June 2, 2008 meeting.**

***MOTION TO ACCEPT JUNE'S MEETING MINUTES:* COMMISSIONER/CHAIR
AURIEL FENWICK**

***SECONDED MOTION TO ACCEPT JUNE'S MEETING MINUTES:*
COMMISSIONER VIRIGINIA BUSBY**

III. INVOCATION: Chief Rudy Hall

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEITH COLSTON

MOTION TO ACCEPT DIRECTOR'S REPORT: All commissioners

SECONDED MOTION TO ACCEPT DIRECTOR'S REPORT: All commissioners

Mr. Tim Barrett, Conservation Fund was not present to make remarks at this meeting.

COMMISSIONER VIRGINIA BUSBY reported that the Conservation Fund will find another person to address the Commission.

V. UNFISHED OLD BUSINESS

REPATRIATION PROCESS: COMMISSIONER/REPATRIATION COMMITTEE

CHAIR VIRGINIA BUSBY reported that the Repatriation Committee has made some significant progress. The Committee has selected the 5th member. The members include Commissioner Virginia Busby, Chief Sewell Winterhawk Fitzhugh, Rico Newman, Bob Gajdys and Gina Hamlin. Gina Hamlin was the 5th member selected. They had a conference call and everyone agreed and she accepted. She had a talk with Charlie Hall, Maryland Historical Trust to get the first meeting date which is scheduled for October 2, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, Maryland. It is a public meeting but not a public forum. It's going to be a business meeting where information will be received from the Trust and the Committee will set agenda for how the process will be carried out.

COMMISSIONER/CHAIR AURIEL FENWICK spoke about the public being invited but will not be able to participate. **COMMISSIONER VIRGINIA BUSBY** informed the Commission that the public will receive any information disseminated. She also informed them that the Maryland Historical Trust website there is a section on the website that has a lot of the documents that the Committee will be looking at to decide on carrying out the reburials. The Maryland Law, NAGPRA, agreement document that the Trust signed with the Commission can be found on the website. The meeting will not be taped. The Committee asked Tim McKeown who is a part of the National NAGPRA program to attend the meetings and help to advise the Committee as they look forward in the process. He has agreed in the past. She will ask him to continue to assist the Commission. She has searched out examples where there has been state level or less than a federal agency level where agreements has been worked out with tribes about reburials and has provided one to Committee members from Colorado. It is available online if anyone wants to take a look at it. The Committee will consist of 10 members, 5 selected for the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs and 5 from the Maryland Historical Trust.

There was a discussion about the Commission's website. The website is being re-vamped to follow the consistency with the Governor's office. There will be a totally new look to the website. Ms. Karen Monath, Governor's Office of Community Initiatives informed the Commission that the Office has a new group of IT workers and is working diligently to make sure that the Commission's website is up and running. There is no particular time frame as to when this will happen but hopefully in about a month or two. The website is currently running at this time.

LONGEST WALK 2: **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEITH COLSTON** informed the Commission that the Longest Walk 2 is a national situation that the Commission was able to participate in at the end. The Commission assisted those persons making their way through Pennsylvania down into Washington DC. There was a news media event that took place at the Inner Harbor where various participants of the Longest Walk that had made their way from California into the State of Maryland down into Washington DC. It was a successful event where not only the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs participated but also the Baltimore American Indian Center. The Longest Walk 2 concluded in Washington DC and members of the Commission were present to finish it out. Hopefully information will be received from the participants of the Longest Walk in recognition of the contributions of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs. The Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs worked as a coordination office for all the different departments that were needed such as Highway Administration, media exposure, etc. The Commission was viewed as participants that aided in every way possible and also was represented in Washington DC. The Commission can hold our heads up high and hopefully 30 years in the future they will speak about the contributions of the Commission and if they make their way through here again the Commission can be a part of it.

COMMISSIONER/CHAIR AURIEL FENWICK asked if there was anything that can be on record in regards to point of contacts here in the State of Maryland in the event that it occurs again?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEITH COLSTON informed the Commission that the Commission's point of contact Ricardo Tapia who is the National Coordinator for the Wilda Legg can provide the Commission with all the information needed. This information can be stored for future use.

VI. INTRODUCTION OF GUEST/WELCOME: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEITH COLSTON

Pastor Luther Hill, Minority Outreach & Technical Assistance (MOTA), Wicomico County spoke on wanting to understand Native Americans better and how to best deal with second-hand smoke and tobacco use. In working together he has found out that the use of tobacco is one of the sacred rituals that is used by the American Indian. He would like to network so that the message can be spread. MOTA is not only dealing with tobacco use, but also the other health disparities that plague minority groups. They concentrate on African Americans, Asians, Native Americans and Latinos. They need information from the Commission as points of contact. It makes their job easier if point of contacts is known. He spoke about some of the campaigns sponsored by MOTA. Also they have billboards up in Salisbury Maryland. Pastor Hill asked if everyone in attendance would sign their sign-up sheet before they leave. Pastor Lee told the Commission that MOTA needs their help to deal with tobacco smoking sensation, cancer (breast, colon, rectal, etc.). Pastor Hill informed the Commission that he could provide a meeting place in Salisbury if the Commission would like to have a meeting there.

COMMISSIONER/CHAIR AURIEL FENWICK asked how the Commission could be most helpful to MOTA. Pastor Hill said that he finds that networking together and have people that look like me and touch shoulders with me can get a message out about cigarette smoke, cancers, etc. He spoke about the brochure which talks about the 200 different elements that go into cigarettes. Pastor Hill said that if he has point of contacts and information can be shared we can get the message out. He wants to make sure that no one is offended. Pastor Hill let the

Commission know that MOTA has power point presentations, health fairs, etc. Pastor Hill says that every heritage needs to know about other heritages as well.

Mrs. Tamira Brooks, Outreach Worker, MOTA spoke about the purpose of MOTA is to be able to reach each other. Mrs. Brooks spoke about not everyone will go to a doctor, talk about what ails them. MOTA tries to provide information in whatever language is needed. MOTA has a format to reach the community so that they can be healthy and pass health on to the next generation. MOTA also provide information on how to obtain grant monies from the government and assist if necessary.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEITH COLSTON spoke on the event with Holy Cross Hospital in Montgomery County held on June 28th that MOTA supported in which the Commission partnered with. The Commission is in partnership with Holy Cross Hospital and has had three events. These events included free testing, cultural activities, etc. Mr. Colston feels that the monies awarded to the different groups should shared amongst the people that made the activity possible instead of giving it to one or two persons. That's the model that is being shared with the other counties. The funding for this year for Montgomery County only is about \$20,000 for activities. There is an agenda in place for three different events for this year in that particular area. He will get with other MOTA partners to find out what is being done for the American Indian population and how the Commission can assist. The Governor's Office want the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs to be very much involved in the MOTA activities.

COMMISSIONER/CHAIR AURIEL FENWICK recognizes Pastor Hill who spoke about MOTA having a technical assistant component where the different tribes who want to apply for grant money themselves, can go to a workshop that teaches them how to write the grants. They will actually come to the community or the community can go to them.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEITH COLSTON spoke about the event scheduled for November 29 which is the next date scheduled for the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs and MOTA in Montgomery County. It is being tied in with American Indian Heritage Month and American Indian Day which is a State holiday that is being celebrated for the first time in the State of Maryland. There will be a celebration on November 28th and carry on that celebration into that Saturday where the celebration can continue as well as adhere to health issues. It's in Montgomery County where the funding is.

VII, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Vikki Childs announced an event to be held on Saturday, November 1st, American Indian Heritage Day at Jefferson Patterson Park to kick-off American Indian Heritage Month. Also Joann Shenandoah will not be in concert in Calvert County. However she may be in Salisbury in the middle of November.

COMMISSIONER/VICE CHAIR THOMAS WINDSOR asked Ms. Childs to give her information to Pastor Hill so that he could let his community know as well.

Chief Rudy Hall notified that there is a dock in place and should be up and running within 2 weeks. There will be camping, canoeing, kayaking, etc.

COMMISSIONER VIRGINIA BUSBY asked whether the Conservation Fund has been in contact with him about his water trail linking up with the John Smith Water Trail. Chief Hall has spoken to them about it a few months back. **COMMISSIONER VIRGINIA BUSBY** spoke about them possibly having a grant to help entity's link with the John Smith Water Trail.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEITH COLSTON spoke about serving on the John Smith's Trail Committee, along with two other Marylanders which will meet on October 22nd and October 23rd. Any and all concerns and thoughts in reference to the trail, please voice this to him through voice, e-mail, handwritten, etc. He will bring them forth to the Committee at large. This information needs to be sent to him a.s.a.p.

COMMISSIONER VIRGINIA BUSBY spoke about the Accohannock people that's moving forward with a water trail since the Commission has had the presentation from the Conservation Fund and Park Services. It is a good opportunity to be able to tell your own story and be economically benefit for doing a outdoor trail. She encourages people to think hard if they can develop things like this and support things like this. Get Native peoples opinions inserted and expressed in the John Smith's Water Trail. If you don't express it, someone else will tell the story for you and you might not like it. Express your opinion with Keith as the conduit for the Commission. Go to the park service yourself. There is going to be a lot of economic development opportunities coming out of this. There will be a lot of people trying to tell the story about Indigenous People of the Chesapeake and of Maryland. Encourage people who lives and history this represents have a big say in what happens. Participate however you can.

COMMISSIONER GUY WELLS announced the 16th Annual Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians Festival will be held September 13& 14, 2008 in Vienna, Maryland at the Ball Field from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEITH COLSTON** informed the Commission that the Governor's Office and the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs will be marketing this event as much as possible.

VIII. AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH: **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEITH COLSTON** spoke about the events scheduled for November 3rd and November 28th. American Indian Heritage Month is the entire month of November. The MCIA, since bringing the Commission back to life held the event last year at the Department of Human Resources. This year on November 3rd we will have the kick-off is to be held at 201 W. Preston Street, Lobby, Baltimore, Maryland. The MCIA will stay consistent with the other Commissions as to location and structure of events. The MCIA is unique as to the culture, dancing, singing and spiritually. We are planning on having the Lt. Governor as one of the guest speaker as well as other individuals. This event is open to the public. The event will take place from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. The other event is November 28th which is American Indian Heritage Day which is the fourth Friday in November. This event will be celebrated in Annapolis at the Miller Senate Office Building. We are trying to get the Governor as the guest speaker. We will be utilizing as much talent here in Maryland within our Native communities. Announcements are being sent out to various agencies, various groups, etc. This is a time of celebration and not a time to speak about issues. From 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. will be a meet and greet. The actual event will be from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. This event will be by invitation only. There will be a time of recognition for one of the elders representing the State, Native American student and a culture presenter. He wanted to express the excitement and joy of having a State holiday for the American Indian community. Maryland is one of a few states in the United States that have such

a day. This is actually a State holiday recognizing the American Indian community as a people even though there is not State recognition in the State itself.

COMMISSIONER WANDA LEE spoke about a luncheon that she was invited to by the Native American Professional in the Federal Government. They were mostly from federally recognized western tribes. She tried to interest them in this event. They are in and around Washington DC. She gave them Executive Director Keith Colston's number. She also told them about the health fairs.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEITH COLSTON spoke about the staff meetings held at the Governor's Office. Governor O'Malley is an proponent with getting the word out about the positive things that are going on in the different agencies. What he needs from each of the communities as well as the Commission is to keep him informed of the positive things going on in the community and it can be filtered to all of Maryland through our mailings as well as the Governor's website which is about over 80,000 persons.

Debra Henry informed the Commission that Salisbury University wanted to work with the Commission. Salisbury University has a new Education Building and would like to have the Commission hold one of their meetings there. Also, Professor Barne who is in charge of children's literature is trying to bring Joseph Burshee who is a Native American writer to Salisbury next spring. He is also looking for story tellers list for an event at Salisbury. She said that the Commission needs to contact Dr. Andes for further information.

COMMISSIONER/CHAIR AURIEL FENWICK said that she understands that the head of the Diversity Department is looking for more involvement with local Native Americans. The University is looking for more involvement/presence in getting involved with the curriculum. This request would be better in writing because if they are looking for specifics we have the resources to provide. Also it would be excellent to invite them to come to a Commission meeting as well. Ms. Henry said that if a Commission meeting is held in Salisbury that the Education Department would be present. Ms. Henry has contacted Executive Director Keith Colston as well. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEITH COLSTON** has received two requests from Ms. Henry. One is about the meeting place and the other is about one not being supportive of Native American people and the culture aspects involved. On both accounts he replied that there has to be some sort of confirmation that we can come and participate in some sort of fashion or form. The Commission is waiting for this response.

COMMISSIONER VIRIGINA BUSBY spoke about needing more in depth plan to reach the educators. We need more focused information delivered to them. Maybe if not this year we have a Native American Forum during American Indian Heritage Month. We can have Native Americans from the State of Maryland and give them an opportunity to look at curriculum that the teachers have to learn and teach students.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEITH COLSTON informed the Commission that Greenmount Elementary is putting together a curriculum that they follow with a theme each year. He has looked at the curriculum and feel that it is something that can be used as a model. He will share that information with the Commissioners.

Norris Howard asked if the Commissioners would introduce themselves since some of them are new.

INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Howard spoke about a power point presentation that he has that would be helpful to the community.

Power Point:

1. Criteria for being a Commissioner and compliance to meeting that criteria
2. Vacancies (How is one notified when the Commission has one)
3. Meetings (meeting notices)
4. Venues
5. Agenda (7 days prior to Commission meeting)
6. Bill to change recognition HB128 (Summer Study)

Mr. Howard spoke about Maryland having no recognized groups. He has heard this for about 20 years. There are a lot of people in the public that think that there are recognized groups in Maryland. **COMMISSIONER/CHAIR AURIEL FENWICK** spoke about there being no recognized tribes indigenous to the State of Maryland, however there are quite a few tribes recognized that are residing in the State of Maryland. Mr. Howard also spoke about the Mission Statement be expressed in writing and what the current calendar is for the year.

COMMISSIONER/CHAIR AURIEL FENWICK informed Mr. Howard that the information that he required about is on the website and current. In the Annual Report he could find the mission statement. Also the by-laws are on the website.

COMMISSIONER/CHAIR AURIEL FENWICK once again thanked everyone. It is so important to have you not only at the Commission meetings but also within the communities.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING: COMMISSIONER/CHAIR AURIEL FENWICK

SECONDED MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING: COMMISSIONER/VICE CHAIR THOMAS WINDSOR

Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.